

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 5 is allowed.

Claim 23 is "objected to". New claim 26 is added, and corresponds to "objected to" claim 23 written in independent form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 26 should be allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 11-26 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11-16 AND 20-22 UNDER 35 USC 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY YAGASAKI (US PATENT NO. 5,428,396)

Claim 11 recites decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block by using a result of the prediction made by said predicting means with a decoding method *selected from at least two different decoding methods* based on a result of a determination made by said determining means, *wherein said at least two different decoding methods use different codes, respectively, to decode the same motion vector.*

Please note that claim 11 is amended to clearly recite the above-described features. Somewhat similar amendments are made to other independent claims.

Yagasaki does not disclose or suggest these features.

Yagasaki is directed to reducing the size of a reference table. See, for example, column 19, lines 8-9, of Yagasaki. To achieve this objective, Yagasaki uses a "fold-back" method as shown in Table 5 of Yagasaki and described in column 19, line 3, through column 21, line 3, of Yagasaki.

For example, in Table 5 of Yagasaki, the code "0000 1010" corresponds to the value "5". However, to reduce the size of the reference table, the code "0000 1010" in Table 5 also corresponds to the value "-27". Therefore, Table 5 uses the same code to correspond to two different values. Yagasaki uses the motion vector value for the preceding block to determine which value, for example, "5" or "-27", is the proper value. See, for example, column 19, line 64, through column 20, line 6, of Yagasaki.

Therefore, Yagasaki always uses the same code for decoding the same value. For example, the code "0000 1010" is always used for decoding the value "5". As can be seen from this example, Yagasaki discloses that only one decoding method is used. Yagasaki does not select a decoding method from at least two different decoding methods.

As an example, with various embodiments of the present invention, based on a result of a determination made by a determining means, a decoding method might be selected which, for

example, uses a specific code corresponding to the value "5". However, based on a different result of a determination made by a determining means, a different decoding method might be selected which, for example, uses a different specific code corresponding to the value "5". For example, in FIG. 11 of the present application, "variable length codes 1" uses the code "0000010010" corresponding to the value "5", whereas "variable length codes 2" uses the code ""101000" corresponding to the value "5".

This operation is significantly different than Yagasaki, where the same code (e.g., "0000 1010" in Table 5 of Yagasaki) is always used for the value "5". Please note that the claimed invention is not intended to be limited in any way to the example described herein.

Therefore, Yagasaki does not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 11.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 11. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited reference.

An Examiner Interview was conducted at the USPTO on January 9, 2007, between Examiner Wong and Attorney Kravetz. Generally, the above-described claim amendments and remarks were discussed in the Examiner Interview.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 17-19 AND 24-25 UNDER 35 USC 103
AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER YAGASAKI IN VIEW OF
FANDRIANTO (US PATENT NO. 5,594,813)

The above comments for distinguishing over Yagasaki also apply here, where appropriate.

The Examiner refers to various portions of Fandrianto. These portions of Fandrianto relate to searching for motion vectors. It is respectfully submitted that these portions of Fandrianto do not relate to selecting a decoding method from at least two different decoding methods based on a result of a determination made by said determining means as recited, for example, in base claim 11.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. IDS

An IDS was filed on November 28, 2006.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS.

V. CONCLUSION

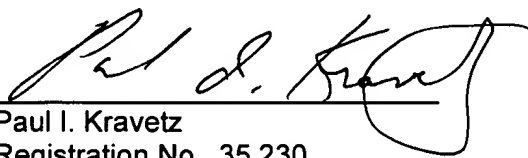
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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